

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments, and the following remarks.

The amendments to this patent application are to cancel the rejected claim 27. Thus, the only remaining claims are claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8-10, 12-16, 19-24, 26, and 28-33, which have been allowed by the Patent Examiner.

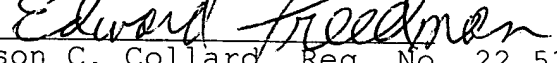
Because claim 27 has now been cancelled, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102, or 35 U.S.C. 103 over DE 44 165 76 has now been rendered moot. Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

A prompt notification of allowability is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 8, 2004.



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